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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,695	03/05/2002	David A. Bottom	042390P11219	7431

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EXAMINER

BROUSSARD, COREY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,695

Applicant(s)

BOTTOM ET AL.

Examiner

Corey M. Broussard

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-9,11-13,15-17,19 and 21-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-9,11-13,15-17,19 and 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 10, 18, and 27 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference to Gallagher et al. (PN 5,971,804). Rejections based on the newly cited reference follow. The Examiner apologizes for the inconvenience. The Finality of the previous office action is withdrawn and the amendment filed March 6, 2006 is entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19, and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson et al. (PN 6,452,809) in view of Gallagher et al. (PN 5,971,804). With respect to claim 1, Jackson teaches a modular server system, comprising: a midplane having a system management bus and a plurality of blade interfaces (col 4, 48-53, col 11, 58-60), the blade interfaces in electrical communication with each other; a server blade (132) inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the midplane, the server blade having a server blade system management bus in electrical communication with the system management bus of the midplane (the server

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data bus and the midplane data bus cooperate allowing the server system to function, see, col 12, 40-col 13, 59), and a network interface to connect to a network (col 5, 1-4); and a plurality of switch blades to perform network switching wherein the plurality of switch blades are inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the midplane (the interface cards can act as switch blades, see col 5, 1-4, col 7, 19-26, col 12, 17-col 13, 18). Jackson lacks teaching wherein the network interface includes a network connector jack accessible through a faceplate on the server blade. Gallagher teaches a server blade (28) with a network interface that includes a network connector jack accessible through a faceplate on the server blade (col 11, 16-24, Fig. 5H, 7). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the electrical art to combine the server system of Jackson with the redundant network connections of Gallagher for the benefit of improved reliability.

4. With respect to claim 2, Jackson teaches a power supply module (144) coupled to the midplane to provide power to the modular server system (col 8, 12-17).

5. With respect to claim 3, Jackson teaches a cooling fan module (140) coupled to the modular server system to cool the modular server system (col 7, 66-2).

6. With respect to claim 7, Jackson teaches a chassis (110) to house the midplane, the server blade, and the plurality of switch blades. (col 7, 16-65).

7. With respect to claim 11, Jackson teaches wherein the at least one media device is selected from the group consisting of a storage medium device, a graphics processing device, an audio processing device, and a streaming media processing

device (the media device is a storage medium device, see col 5, 1-4, col 7, 19-26, col 8, 44-47).

8. With respect to claim 12, Jackson teaches a midplane having a system management bus, a first side, a second side, and a plurality of blade interfaces (col 4, 48-53, col 11, 58-60) on the first side and the second side, wherein the blade interfaces on the first side are in electrical communication with the blade interfaces on the second side; a plurality of server blades, each server blade inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the first side of the midplane (col 11, 58-6), the server blades each having a server blade system management bus in electrical communication with the system management bus of the midplane (col 4, 48-53, col 5, 27-33), and a network interface to connect to a network (interface cards 134 may connect to a network, col 7, 19-26); a plurality of switch blades to perform network switching between any number of the server blades and between an external network (interface cards 134 may act as a network switch, see col 7, 19-26, col 13, 24-28), wherein at least two switch blades are inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the midplane (col 12, 55-58). Jackson lacks teaching wherein the network interface includes a network connector jack accessible through a faceplate on the server blade. Gallagher teaches a server blade (28) with a network interface that includes a network connector jack accessible through a faceplate on the server blade (col 11, 16-24, Fig. 5H, 7). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the electrical art to combine the server system of Jackson with the redundant network connections of Gallagher for the benefit of improved reliability.

9. With respect to claims 4 and 13, Jackson teaches wherein a plurality of media blades each inserted into to one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the second side of the midplane (col 12, 55-58), the media blades each having at least one storage medium device (interface cards 134 can act as a media blade when interfacing with a hard drive or other media types, see col 5, 1-4, col 7, 19-26, and col 8, 44-47).

10. With respect to claim 19, Jackson teaches a midplane having a system management bus, a first side, a second side, and a plurality of blade interfaces (col 4, 48-53, col 11, 58-60) on the first side and the second side, the blade interfaces on the first side are in electrical communication with the blade interfaces on the second side; a server blade inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the first side of the midplane, the server blade having a server blade system management bus in electrical communication with the system management bus of the midplane (col 4, 48-53, col 11, 58-60), and a network interface to connect to a network (interface cards 134 may connect to a network, col 7, 19-26); a media blade inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the second side of the midplane (interface cards 134 can act as a media blade when interfacing with a hard drive or other media types, see col 5, 1-4, col 7, 19-26, and col 8, 44-47), the media blade having at least one storage medium device (col 5, 1-4, col 7, 19-26); a second server blade inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the first side of the midplane (plurality of blades col 7, 18), the second server blade having a second server blade system management bus in electrical communication with the system management bus of the midplane, and a second network interface to connect to the network a second media blade removably

connectable to one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the second side of the midplane (each blade 132 may have dedicated interface cards 134, col 7, 19-26, col 11, 48-col 13, 59), a second media blade inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the second side of the midplane, the second media blade having at least one second storage medium device; least two switch blades to perform network switching between the first and second server blades, any other server blade inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the first side of the midplane, and an external network (interface cards 134 may act as a network switch, see col 7, 19-26, col 13, 24-28), the at least two switch blades inserted into one blade interface on the midplane (col 12, 55-58); a power supply module (144) coupled to the midplane to provide power to the modular server system; a cooling fan module (140) coupled to the modular server system to cool the modular server system; and a chassis (110) to house the midplane, the server blade, the media blade, the second server blade, the second media blade, the switch blades, the power supply module, and the cooling fan module, the server blade, the media blade, the second server blade, the second media blade and the switch blades share power from the power supply module and to share cooling from the cooling fan module. Jackson lacks teaching wherein the network interface includes a network connector jack accessible through a faceplate on the server blade. Gallagher teaches a server blade (28) with a network interface that includes a network connector jack accessible through a faceplate on the server blade (col 11, 16-24, Fig. 5H, 7). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the electrical art to

combine the server system of Jackson with the redundant network connections of Gallagher for the benefit of improved reliability.

11. With respect to claims 6, 15, and 21, Jackson teaches wherein the at least one storage medium device of the at least one media blade is a hard disk drive (col 5, 1-4, col 7, 19-26).

12. With respect to claims 8, 16, and 22, Jackson teaches wherein the server blades, the switch blades, and the media blades are hot swappable (col 5, 18-20).

13. With respect to claims 9, 17, and 23-26, Jackson teaches wherein the server blades and media blades are operable to be used as single or multiple server systems (see col 5, 33-53, the scalable dynamic system can utilize any number of server blades and storage media as a plurality of server systems).

Response to Remarks

14. Applicant's remarks with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion


15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Heath et al. (PN 6,564,274) teaching a blade server (171) and a external network connector (175a) on the faceplate (Fig. 10).

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corey M. Broussard whose telephone number is 571 272 2799. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-6:00pm M-F (Flextime).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 571 272 2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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PRIMARY EXAMINER